ground water irrigation through experimental farming;

(b) if so, what were the objectives of the study, the details thereof;

(c) whether the findings of the study have been implemented; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Mathura Refinery had sponsored a 5 year study project with Aligarh Muslim University from September, 1987 to November, 1992, with the following objectives:

(1) To evaluate the effect of treated e?uent irrigation (i) crop yield and quality and (ii) soil characteristics.

(2) To recommend suitable agricultural practices to ameliorate the adverse effects of effluent irrigation, if any.

(c) and (d) The final report is yet to be submitted by the Aligarh Muslim University.

Revelation on Alleged Kickbacks pad

1814. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Vice-President, Mr. Alexander Rutskoi, has revealed recently that India has paid a kickback in the purchase of crude oil from Russia;

(b) whether Government has ordered an investigation into the charge; and

(c) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Such a news item has appeared in some sections of the Press.

(b) and (c) Purchases of Russian crude oil during 1992 was carried out under the "Trade Protocol between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for 1992". All trade adjustments and payments of imports and exports from the Russian Federation are regulated by the provisions of this protocol. Consequently, the purported payment stated to have been made is not feasible under the Inter-Governmental arrangements.

Signing of Mou between Oman and Caltex Corporation

1815. SHRI SURESH KALAMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oman has signed a memorandum of understanding with Caltex Corporation for the establishment of a new refinery in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the memorandum with particular reference to the capacity and ownership of the proposed refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA):)a3 and (b) Govt. of India is not aware of any MOU having been signed between Oman and Caltex Corporation in this regard. However, in the Memoranda of Understanding signed between BPCL|HPCL with Oman Oil Company, a provision exists that either of the companies can perform their obligations under the MOU through one of its affiliates.